

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Mr. Alfred Eckes, Chairman
United States International Trade Commission
Washington, D.C. 20436

Dear Mr. Eckes:

With respect to your request for information regarding the production and export of goods manufactured by convict, forced, or indentured labor, we are of course prepared to give you any support we can. Although this is not a topic on which we have focused, except on the USSR, we will make available to you any information that we find.

We have examined Soviet use of slave and prison labor in some detail for a number of years. The results of our work on an unclassified basis have been made available to the Bureau of Customs and, as you know, have appeared in the Congressional Record. A more detailed classified review of the evidence, also prepared for Customs, can be made available to your office under appropriate security safeguards. You should be aware, however, that the most detailed available information on products made with forced labor rarely provides any indication of the extent to which these products are exported.

We may also be of some help on other Communist countries, especially China. On non-Communist countries, however, we have neither the research resources, nor probably the sources of information necessary to answer the questions you raise. Possibly the Commerce or Justice Departments could be helpful to you.

I have asked Director of the Office of Global Issues, to look into this matter.

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Sincerely,

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Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NIC #02110-84

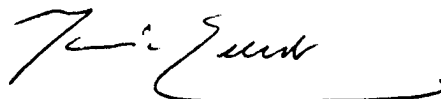
3 April 1984

NOTE FOR: DDI

FROM: Maurice C. Ernst
NIO/Economics

SUBJECT: Draft Letter to Alfred Eckes

This is follow-up request to a conversation I had with one of Eckes' people. Basically I tried to discourage him, telling him there was little or nothing we could do for them on Free World countries and that most usable information on the USSR was too highly classified for their purposes. I also told them there was some chance he might get something on China or Eastern Europe, and that, if they felt it necessary, they should write to you.



Maurice C. Ernst

Attachment:
Draft Letter

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